



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

February 15, 2012

Volume 11, Issue 1

MEMA TO TAKE EMAC LEAD

In March 2012, MEMA Operations Manager Allen Phillips will begin a one-year term as the Chair of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Executive Task Force, and MEMA will assume the responsibility of serving as the EMAC National Coordinating State (NCS) for one year. The National Coordinating State is the initial point of contact for EMAC operational activities. The NCS monitors potential and actual emergency events nationwide and must be prepared to support states with EMAC needs on short notice by swiftly coordinating with Authorized Representatives and Designated Contacts in impacted states. The NCS recruits the other operational coordination components for deployment and interfaces with the EMAC Program Director during an event. The NCS serves the operations coordination function in the overall EMAC governance structure, as it oversees all EMAC response and recovery operations and ensures that operational procedures are followed, that coordinating teams are adequately staffed, and that timely deployment status reports are issued. The NCS also coordinates with NEMA's Executive Task Force and NEMA staff to resolve policy and procedural issues during the activation and implementation of EMAC functions. As the Chair of the Executive Task Force, Allen Phillips will coordinate MEMA's NCS activities. He is the lead for extensive EMAC Training for MEMA Staff. More information about taking the EMAC lead can be found at www.mass.gov/mema.

KEVIN TULLY SAYS 'FAREWELL'

After almost three decades at MEMA, Kevin Tully will be leaving the agency. Prior to his 27 year career with the MA Civil Defense Agency/MEMA, Kevin had served three years as the Civil Defense Director for the City of Malden, in addition to the 6 years he served as Deputy Director and 8 years as a Civil Defense volunteer. Kevin's entire career in state service has been in field operations in Area/Region I (Suffolk, Middlesex & Essex Counties). He has been a big part of the transition of the agency from post-World War II Civil Defense to the 21st Century world of Emergency Management. His long years of service have been appreciated.

STATEWIDE WORKING GROUP PROJECTS

Children in Disasters

In the Summer of 2011, MEMA was tasked with facilitating an effort to look at the Commonwealth's emergency management plans across all agencies, organizations, and municipalities, to identify gaps in those plans where the needs of children might not be met during disasters, as well as through the recovery process. With help from *Save the Children*, an organization based on Westport, CT, a workgroup was formed and divided into 3 focus groups – Human Services, Emergency Management, and Pediatric Medical Care. These focus groups have been meeting regularly since last June and

are in the final stages of the gap identification process. With help from *Save the Children*, we will soon be ready to present our findings.

Mass Care Sheltering

MEMA has scheduled a series of meetings in February and March with State agencies and each of the regional Homeland Security Councils to present the overall project and project time line. These meetings will facilitate discussion of regional and statewide shelter needs, current capability and planning, and promising practices. Grant funding has been secured to retain the services of a Planning expert to assist in the process of developing the Statewide Plan. A second monthly meeting of the project management team is also scheduled. Each Homeland Security Council has provided plans and resource information to provide a baseline for analysis of existing capability. Participation by local emergency management, public health, animal response teams, and medical reserve corps is a key element in the project plan.

Evacuation

The Evacuation Working Group has had three facilitated meetings to date on November 9th, December 5th, and February 2nd. The Working Group is composed of the 5 Homeland Security Councils, Federal Agencies (U.S. DOT, FEMA, and Army Corps of Engineers), and State Agencies with critical evacuation functions (MSP, MassDOT, DPH, MBTA, MassPort, DCR, MBCR, MANG). The purpose of the Group is to develop a statewide multimodal evacuation plan for the Commonwealth and review and provide feedback on the draft MA Evacuation Annex. Meeting “takeaways” for November and December: were the need for a multidisciplinary approach to evacuation planning; improve local evacuation plans and sync these plans across local jurisdictions to avoid conflict; set a standard for what local evacuation plans will consist of, such as Local evacuation routes, Traffic control points, Critical local infrastructure, Special location considerations (populations, industry, facilities, etc.); Synchronize plans across local jurisdictions and then regionally – mitigating conflicts; and Synchronize Evacuation Planning with Shelter Plans for a “comprehensive evacuation plan. The Process will set a common language for evacuation planning and assist in developing a “common operating picture” across MA. The Statewide Plan will tie in local/regional plans with a Phased Approach – developing Local, Regional and State building blocks. There will be a review of the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC) Evacuation Tool and Template as a potential model for other Homeland Security regions and potential Phase III evacuation planning efforts.

Animal Sheltering

The Statewide Animal Sheltering Working Group met on January 31st. Action plans have been developed to address issues previously identified. Tasking lists have been formulated to assist in the monitoring and completion of ongoing action items such as the State Animal Annex, MA Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF-17), Animal Protection Language, the Statewide Sheltering Strategy, Mutual Aid Mechanism, and Equipment Standardization. The next meeting will be held on March 27th at MEMA HQ.

IMAT

MEMA continues the process of awarding a planning contract to assist in the development of a Statewide All-Hazards Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) Strategy. This Working Group is comprised of local, regional, and state subject matter experts including members of the Regional Homeland Security Councils and developing IMATs.

MUTUAL AID UPDATE

To date, 206 Communities and Governmental Entities have opted into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at www.mass.gov/mema. MEMA continues to encourage all cities and towns to take advantage of this opportunity. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

TRAINING & EXERCISES

The Training and Exercise Unit organized the upcoming MEMA co-sponsored program, *Collaborative Leadership in Homeland Security* course, to begin February 21st and run through March 22nd in Quincy, MA. This course is to provide homeland security leaders with high-level critical thinking and collaborative leadership skills. This DHS-funded training opportunity is structured as a 5-week program: 4 weeks online, 1 week face-to-face. 31 participants are enrolled to date.

On February 28th to March 1st, MEMA is sponsoring two Department of Homeland Security-funded, Cyber Security courses: *Essentials of Community Cyber Security* and *The EOC's Role in Community Cyber Security*. The Training and Exercise Unit identified both opportunities in support of *National Level Exercise 2012*, and to prepare participants for how the Emergency Operations Center and community would plan for and manage information and resources needed for a cyber event and understand how cyber can be used to affect, disrupt, and/or complicate emergency responses.

During this past month, an additional 203 individuals received training through MEMA in the following subject areas *ICS-300, ICS-400, ICS-402, Resource Management System (RMS) Basic, RMS Administrator, Hazardous Materials Safety HAZ-01, and LSU Instructor Development Workshop*. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

NLE 2012

The *National Level Exercise (NLE) 2012*, sponsored by the FEMA National Exercise Division (NED), part of a series of Congressionally mandated preparedness exercises designed to educate and prepare participants for potential catastrophic events, will examine the Nation's ability to coordinate and implement prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event or a series of related cyber events. Unique to *NLE 2012* will be an emphasis on the shared responsibility among the Federal Government; state, local, tribal nations and territories (SLTT); the private sector; and international partners to secure cyberspace and respond together to a significant cyber incident. Private sector participation will contribute to an improved understanding of the roles and responsibilities between the public and private sectors; the information sharing mechanisms available to coordinate decision-making and response activities; and the tools and resources available to help assess vulnerabilities, mitigate risk, and improve cyber preparedness. Participation will also assist government policy makers and incident managers better understand both the capabilities and the requirements of private sector partners, contributing to a more comprehensive and collaborative preparedness posture. *NLE 2012* will include four exercises, including a capstone event. These exercises will share common scenario elements, planning efforts, and governance structure. For further details in *NLE 2012*, contact Robert.Pesapane@fema.dhs.gov.

MEMA PARTICIPATES IN HAZMAT TTXs

MEMA Region I staff continues to participate in a series of Hazardous Materials Tabletop Exercises coordinated by the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH), in coordination with the Harvard School of Public Health-Emergency Preparedness Response & Exercise Program (HSPH-EPREP). These exercises focus on individual hospital's plans to address the following topics: 1) Protocols and procedures in obtaining and deploying CHEMPACK. 2) Hospital based decontamination. 3) Maintenance of situational awareness. 4) Management of flow and care of contaminated and uncontaminated patients. The next TTX is scheduled for Days Hotel and Conference Center 159 Pelham Street, Methuen, MA, 8:00am-11:00am on February 9th, 2012.

Participants: Hospitals should be represented by 4-6 staff members who are considered integral to responding to a hazmat event. Examples may include hospital administration/leadership, emergency department staff, public safety/security, and pharmacy staff. Additionally, hospitals will be asked to assist in recruiting 3-5 additional participants representing partnering agencies (local Police/Fire/EMS). Please use the attached flyer to invite internal and external stakeholders to attend this event. Representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts

Emergency Management Agency, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services will be in attendance to work with players during the exercise to simulate their response roles. Please register by February 7th by following this link: <http://www.cvent.com/d/vcqkpp/1Q>. For additional information on the CHEMPACK program access: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/chempack>

SEABROOK EXERCISE CONDUCTED

The first Combined Functional Drill in this year's Seabrook Nuclear Power Station exercise sequence, leading up to the biennial federally graded exercise of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan in April, was conducted January 24-25, involving the nuclear power plant, state Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine, local EOCs and a variety of other state and federal assets. The first day of the exercise was a 10-mile plume pathway scenario. The second day included re-entry and recovery plans for the 50-mile ingestion pathway. The next exercise in the sequence will be March 13-14.

MEMA HOSTS CST EXERCISE

On January 19th, the MA National Guard Civil Support Team (CST) conducted an exercise at MEMA HQ in Framingham. Eight CST response vehicles arrived at 'The Bunker' in the early morning hours, in response to a potential 'terrorist activity'. The play included entry by CST members, in full hazard gear, sampling, monitoring and assessing for CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives) to determine the nature of the simulated threat.

HAZARD MITIGATION COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS TRAINING

This 2-day course provides training in the use of FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis (BSA) Training software which is used in determining the cost-effectiveness of proposed hazard mitigation projects. The course, to be held at MEMA HQ in Framingham, will take place on March 1 & 2, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On-line registration on MEMA's Training Registration System (TRS) at www.mass.gov/mema must take place by Wednesday, February 22, 2012. This training is specifically for local communities and eligible grant applicants considering submission of a FEMA hazard mitigation project application. The target audience is local EMDs, engineering staff, DPW staff, planning officials, etc. For additional information, particularly concerning the on-line pre-requisite training, contact Judy Sartori, MEMA Training Department Registrar at (508) 820-2028 or email at MEMA.Training@state.ma.us.

OCTOBER NOR'EASTER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

In response to Governor Deval Patrick's request of December 16, 2011 to President Barack Obama, federal disaster aid has been made available to MA communities to assist in their recovery from the October 29-30, 2011 Nor'easter. The assistance was authorized under a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (PA) issued by President Obama following a review of the FEMA analysis of Governor Patrick's request letter. The PA assistance will be made available to Middlesex, Worcester, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Berkshire County. These are the six MA counties, which had eligible costs that exceeded federal financial thresholds for storm-related damage. Under this Public Assistance Program, affected local governments, state agencies and various eligible private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for federal funds to be reimbursed for 75% of the approved cost of protective measures, clearing debris from public roads and public property, and repairing, replacing or restoring damaged public facilities and infrastructure. In addition, the counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire, having received record or near-record snowfall from this storm, as determined by the National Weather Service, also receive Snow Assistance, as part of the Public Assistance (PA) program. This PA program will reimburse cities and towns, state agencies and certain non-profit organizations for 75% of the cost of snow and ice removal from public roads for a 48-hour period. With Applicant Briefings completed, communities are now working with FEMA to develop Project Worksheets (PWs) to begin the reimbursement process.

TROPICAL STORM IRENE ASSISTANCE

681 individuals have been approved for Tropical Storm Irene aid with over \$5.2M distributed through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and 79 loans totaling \$3.4M through the Small Business Administration (SBA). With estimates of Public damage at \$34M, FEMA's eGrant system has obligated \$9M to communities through its Public Assistance (PA) Program. Additional recovery details are available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=15596>.

TORNADO RECOVERY ONGOING

1,067 individuals have been approved and received \$4.6M in individual assistance through FEMA. The SBA has distributed 282 loans totaling \$16.6M. Current estimates of damage are in excess of \$52.9M. To date, FEMA's eGrant system has obligated over \$20.4M to communities for PA. Additional recovery information is available at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=14733>.

CRISIS COUNSELING CONTINUES FOR TORNADO SURVIVORS

Free crisis counseling continues to be available for residents of Hampden and Worcester counties who may be stressed, anxious or depressed due to the June 1st tornadoes. Those who want to take advantage of this confidential service may call (855) 915-8047, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The service is provided by the MA Department of Mental Health (MDMH) through their MassSupport Program and will be available through July 31, 2012. This service is funded by FEMA through a grant to MDMH.

POST-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

MEMA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) have announced the availability of FEMA post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. This post-disaster hazard mitigation grant funding is available as a result of the federal disaster declarations for the June 2011 tornadoes and Tropical Storm Irene in late August. Formal mitigation grant program briefings and technical assistance opportunities will be held in February 2012 – the deadline for submission of HMGP applications is April 2, 2012. The grant briefings will provide an overview of the HMGP program, eligible activities, available funding and relevant application process/deadlines. Interested sub-applicants considering submission of an HMGP application are strongly encouraged to attend a scheduled briefing. Details regarding the grant program briefings are available on the 'Hazard Mitigation Grants' portion of the 'Disaster Recovery & Mitigation' section of the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal assistance for disaster recovery. State & local governments, tribal organizations and certain private non-profits may be eligible to apply with projects that can include storm-water upgrades, drainage and culvert improvements, property acquisition, slope stabilization, infrastructure protection, seismic and wind retrofits, structure elevations, etc. This HMGP funding is available to all communities in the Commonwealth that meet the sub-applicant and project eligibility repair, replacement or deferred maintenance activities, but are designed to assist sub-applicants to develop long-term, cost-effective improvements that will reduce or eliminate risk/damage to people and property from the effects of natural hazards. Projects that address operation, deferred or future maintenance, repairs or replacement (without a change in the level of protection provided) of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging, debris removal, replacement of obsolete utility systems, bridges and facility repair/rehabilitation) are not considered eligible mitigation grant activities.

BOSTON MARATHON PUBLIC SAFETY PREPARATIONS OFF & RUNNING

Although the running of the 2012 Boston Marathon does not take place until April, scores of local, state and federal agencies responsible for the health and safety of the 27,000 runners and hundreds of thousand spectators are taking the initial steps to prepare for the event. MEMA has already begun

hosting these multi-jurisdictional meetings at the SEOC in Framingham. MEMA will again serve as the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for the 116th running of the race on Patriots Day. As steps are being taken by the many state and local public safety, medical, transportation and volunteer agencies and organizations, there are no significant changes in this year's event. More information regarding this great international event is available at www.baa.org.

JANUARY MEMT MEETING

The January Meeting of the MA Emergency Management Team, in a follow-up to last month's presentation by Boston College's Weston Observatory Director of Seismology Dr. John Ebel, featured Steve Mabee, MA State Geologist discussing seismic hazard mapping in the Commonwealth. He outlined plans, through proposed FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants, to map Landslide Hazards and River Erosion in the coming year.

2ND ANNIVERSARY OF HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE

On January 30, 2012, Governor Deval Patrick joined Marjorie Brunache, Ministre Conseiller Responsable du Consulate, other elected officials and members of the Haitian community at the MA State House to commemorate the two-year anniversary of the Haitian Earthquake. On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, causing catastrophic damage around the capital city of Port-au-Prince and beyond. The Haitian government estimates there were more than 250,000 fatalities as a result of the event. Additional information about steps taken by the Commonwealth to assist, as well as this event at which Governor Patrick declared '*Haiti Earthquake Remembrance Month*', can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/governor/pressoffice/pressreleases/2012/2012130-haiti-earthquake-remembrance-day.html>.

MUTUAL AID UPDATES

Information regarding the Commonwealth's new Mutual Aid programs (Statewide Mutual Aid Opt in Communities; Public Works Mutual Aid Opt in Communities; and Mutual Aid Snapshot) continues to be updated and is available on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema.

PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE FLOODING

Although this winter has been unusually mild and relatively snow-free, we must not dismiss the possibilities of changes in the winter weather that could increase the risk of flooding (the #1 natural disaster in America) later in the year. Flood insurance can help protect property against heavy rains, ice jams and rapid snowmelt caused by wetter and colder weather. Gather the facts and get peace of mind by assessing the winter rainy season risks at:

http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/what_causes_flooding.jsp.

Since standard homeowners insurance does not cover flooding, it is important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves. The NFIP offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners if their community participates in the NFIP. Participating communities agree to adopt and enforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding. Find out more about the NFIP and how it can help you protect yourself at [The NFIP Partnership](#).

NEDRIX WINTER CONFERENCE

The Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) is hosting their first 2012 conference on March 14th, in Quincy, MA. This one-day event will focus on the current national landscape of Cyber Threats and Security with presentations in the morning from industry professionals and a Simulation Exercise in the afternoon. This conference event will be collaborative

and interactive providing a great venue to learn and share valuable information. For addition details and registration information, go to http://nedrix.com/registration_attendee2.php.

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW MEMA UPDATES ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER, AS WELL AS ON THE MEMA WEBSITE @ www.mass.gov/mema.

